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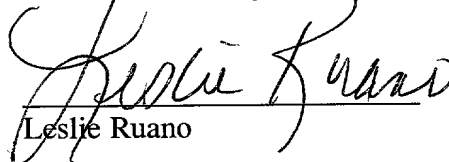
Applicant: P.A.R. Harris
Serial No.:
Filed:
For: A FASTENER DEVICE

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Docket No.: GJ-220J

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CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

I hereby certify that the attached correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service, Express Mail Certificate No. EL861889661US, on this 20 day of December, 2001 in an envelope addressed to: Box Patent Applications, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.


Leslie Ruano

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Preliminary to the examination of the above-identified application, please amend the specification as follows:

In the specification:

Please insert the following paragraph at page 1, line 3:

RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/807,578 filed April 13, 2001.

In the Abstract:

Please add the following abstract:

ABSTRACT

A fastener device comprising a nut, a threaded member for receiving the nut, and visual indicator means for visually indicating if the nut has become loose on the threaded member during use of the fastener device. The visual indicator means may comprise an indicator member which is mounted on the nut, biasing means which biases the indicator member to an indicating position in which the indicator member gives a visual indication that the nut has become loose, and at least one recess into which the indicator member is moved by the biasing means consequent upon the nut becoming loose, the indicator member then being in the indicating position.

In the claims:

Please amend claims 4 and 6-13 as follows:

4. (Once Amended) A fastener device according to claim 2 and including a pivot member which pivotally mounts the indicator member on the nut.

6. (Once Amended) A fastener device according to claim 2 in which the recess for receiving the indicator member is a slot on the threaded member.

7. (Once Amended) A fastener device according to claim 2 in which there are at least two of the recesses for receiving the indicator member.

8. (Once Amended) A fastener device according to claim 2 in which there is only one of the indicator members on the nut.

9. (Once Amended) A fastener device according to claim 2 in which there are at least two of the indicator members on the nut.

10. (Once Amended) A fastener device according to claim 2 in which the biasing means is a coil spring or a V-spring.

11. (Once Amended) A fastener device according to claim 2 in which at least a part of the indicator member is coloured so as to attract attention.

12. (Once Amended) A fastener device according to claim 1 and in which the visual indicator means is made of a plastics material.

13. (Once Amended) A fastener device according to claim 1 and in which the threaded member is a bolt or a stud.

Please delete claim 14.

Marked up versions of these amendments are enclosed herewith.

REMARKS

Preliminarily to the examination of the above-identified patent application, applicants submit herewith amendments to the specification and claims. No new matter has been added.

If for any reason this Preliminary Amendment is found to be incomplete, or if at any time it appears that a telephone conference with counsel would help advance prosecution, please telephone the undersigned or his associates, collect in Waltham, Massachusetts, (781) 890-5678.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirk Teska', written over a horizontal line.

Kirk Teska
Reg. No. 36,291

A FASTENER DEVICE

09/807,578 filed April 13, 2006 ^{RELATED APPLICATIONS} This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/807,578 filed April 13, 2006
This invention relates to a fastener device.

Fastener devices comprising a threaded member for receiving a nut are well known. Such fastener devices are widely used in many applications ranging, for example, from retaining wheels in position on motor vehicles and aircraft to retaining steel girders in position in buildings. There is often a problem with the known fastener devices in that the nuts tend to work loose, for example due to the effects of vibration.

It is an aim of the present invention to obviate or reduce the above mentioned problem.

Accordingly, in one non-limiting embodiment of the present invention there is provided a fastener device comprising a nut, a threaded member for receiving the nut, and visual indicator means for visually indicating if the nut has become loose on the threaded member during use of the fastener device.

The visual indicator means provides a simple means of indicating if a nut has become loose. The nut can then be tightened as necessary.

Preferably, the fastener device is one in which the visual indicator means comprises an indicator member which is mounted on the nut, biasing means which biases the indicator member to an indicating position in which

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AMENDED
CLAIMS

CLAIMS

1. A fastener device comprising a nut, a threaded member for receiving the nut, and visual indicator means for visually indicating if the nut has become loose on the threaded member during use of the fastener device.
2. A fastener device according to claim 1 in which the visual indicator means comprises an indicator member which is mounted on the nut, biasing means which biases the indicator member to an indicating position in which the indicator member gives a visual indication that the nut has become loose, and at least one recess into which the indicator member is moved by the biasing means consequent upon the nut becoming loose, the indicator member then being in the indicating position.
3. A fastener device according to claim 2 in which the indicator member includes an indicator portion which moves to the indicating position.
4. A fastener device according to claim 2 ~~or claim 3~~ and including a pivot member which pivotally mounts the indicator member on the nut.

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5. A fastener device according to claim 4 in which the pivot member pivotally mounts the indicator member in a slot in the nut.

6. A fastener device according to ~~any one of~~ claims 2 ☒
☒ in which the recess for receiving the indicator member is a slot on the threaded member.

7. A fastener device according to ~~any one of~~ claims 2 ☒
☒ in which there are at least two of the recesses for receiving the indicator member.

8. A fastener device according to ~~any one of~~ claims 2 ☒
☒ in which there is only one of the indicator members on the nut.

9. A fastener device according to ~~any one of~~ claims 2 ☒
☒ in which there are at least two of the indicator members on the nut.

10. A fastener device according to ~~any one of~~ claims 2 ☒
☒ in which the biasing means is a coil spring or a V-spring.

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11. A fastener device according to ~~(any one of)~~ claims 2 ~~2~~
10 in which at least a part of the indicator member is
coloured so as to attract attention.

12. A fastener device according to ~~(any one of the~~
~~preceding~~ claims¹ and in which the visual indicator means
is made of a plastics material.

13. A fastener device according to ~~(any one of the~~
~~preceding~~ claims¹ and in which the threaded member is a
bolt or a stud.

~~14. A fastener device substantially as herein described~~
~~with reference to the accompanying drawings.~~

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